

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



CFD Responds to Duplex Structure Fire

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Charleston, SC (March 2, 2015): On 03/02/2015 at 7:14 AM, units with the City of Charleston Fire Department, City of Charleston Police and Charleston County EMS were dispatched for a reported residential structure fire at the intersection of Line Street and Saint Philip Street. First fire department units arrived on scene at 7:17 AM and reported smoke venting from a two-story duplex structure.

A neighbor of an adjoining duplex unit reported smelling smoke earlier in the morning. The adjoining resident later observed a light haze of smoke in her unit, proceeded outside and noticed smoke venting from the adjacent unit and dialed 9-1-1. Fire crews made entry and were able to extinguish a small fire in the kitchen area of the residence. The fire damage was contained to a small area of the kitchen with moderate smoke damage throughout the 1st and second floor of the unit. The resident had departed for work earlier in the morning.

The Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. After a preliminary investigation the cause is believed to be related to improper use of an electrical power supply in the kitchen. Investigators did not locate any working smoke alarms in the residence which may have contributed to the delayed detection of the fire.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to offer a few safety tips:

- 1) Report any unusual odors or smell of smoke by dialing 9-1-1. Emergency responders can then investigate the situation.
- 2) Always maintain working smoke alarms in your home – this will improve safety of occupants in a structure by alerting them to a possible fire.
- 3) Every level of a home should have a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms should be installed inside and outside of each sleeping area.
- 4) Test smoke alarms monthly. Batteries should be changed on a yearly basis.
- 5) Do not power large appliances with power strips or surge protectors.
- 6) Extension cords should be utilized on a temporary basis, for portable appliances, and should NOT be utilized in place of permanent wiring.

Please contact Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer at (843)958-6401 or by email at kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov for additional tips on smoke alarms and fire safety.

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